

of Massachusetts have democratically elected student delegates to assume the roles of constitutional officers, court justices, and members of the General Court on Student Government Day. This has been a most worthwhile experiment in state government. Mr. Speaker, the speech delivered by Ms. Desilets is both eloquent and timely, and it is with great pride that I submit it for the RECORD.

Ms. Rebecca Desilets, Student Governor, Uxbridge High School. It's quite remarkable to see so many of us here in this historical chamber. I use the word remarkable because we are here as a result of an interest in government. We won our elections in our respective high schools. We took the risk and threw our hats into the ring. This is remarkable. At a time when the political talking heads have focused their attention on scandal and investigation, when TV news coverage devotes more time to a stain on a dress than to the President's many attempts to discuss Kosovo, it becomes easy to turn off, to become cynical about government and politics.

A cynicism has infiltrated our view of the political process. The very word "politics" conveys a negative connotation. Who hasn't heard the seemingly endless jokes of the late night show hosts? Is nothing sacred or off limits? No wonder there is such distrust of the American political system. No wonder there is apathy among the citizens of this nation.

In preparation for Student Government Day, I conducted a survey of my peers. This was a random sampling of the Juniors and Seniors at my high school. It is pretty safe to say that although my survey may not be 100% scientific, it is accurate enough to be a reflection of what you would find if repeated at your high school. I was trying to get a handle on how cynical our age group has become. The results were depressing to say the least. Let me give some of the findings. 75% of the respondents blamed their distrust of government on political parties, on lack of bipartisanship. 60% stated that the political scandals of late had added to their negativity. In the comment area that I provided there were some interesting opinions and observations made. The word "corruption" appeared over and over again as an explanation for the pessimism toward government. Perhaps even more significantly, many students attributed their distrust to the media. Specifically, the press was blamed for focusing on the worst case scenarios of political blunder and bad behavior. One responder said that politicians were more concerned with the "power prize" than with the common good, the good of the American people. Politicians are viewed by many as motivated by self-interest rather than the good of the people they represent.

What is the cause of this cynicism? Of course, some of it comes from politicians and the political party system. Our forefathers were right to have a fear of party politics, of faction. It is also a result of an unrestrained press and the race for great ratings.

It is up to us to reduce the effects of cynicism. However, we can't nor should we eliminate it. A healthy skepticism is a good thing, no doubt. But how can we make sure that voters don't get so turned off that they stay away from the polls, that they simply do not participate in this democracy?

As you probably know, last November's election had one of the lowest turnouts ever. Sure we can rationalize and blame it on the candidates. You know those people who say "I didn't vote because I didn't like either candidate"; or the oldest excuse "I didn't

vote because my vote doesn't really make a difference."

Adlai Stevenson, a Governor of Illinois and a presidential candidate in the 1950s, said: "As citizens of this American democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled, the law-givers and the law-abiding, the beginning and the end." Stevenson was right. We do have an active role to play as citizens of our towns or cities, state, and country. We have rights but also responsibilities.

I know that this room is filled with people who are interested. We care about capital punishment, health care, and education. We may be somewhat cynical but this doesn't stop us from knowing what is at stake in Kosovo.

We are the voters who will decide the issues of the 21st Century. Some of us will be the policy makers of the new millennium. Let us send the message, as we are in a small way just by being here, that cynicism will not keep us from our responsibilities as citizens. In fact, let us be the ones that replace cynicism with healthy skepticism. Jay Leno may make us laugh, he will not turn us off. The Drudge Report can contain sensational gossip, but it won't keep us away from the polls. There may be scandal and corruption but some of us will still consider politics as honorable and public service a privilege.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE PUEBLO PACHYDERM CLUB

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Pueblo Pachyderm Club of Pueblo, Colorado for its outstanding leadership and years of exemplary service to the local community.

This patriotic association brings together common citizens to discuss and consider a wide spectrum of political topics both national and local in scope.

Colorado Governor Bill Owens last month proclaimed April 20, 1999 Pueblo Pachyderm Day in the State of Colorado. In honor of this recognition, I hereby submit for the RECORD a copy of the Governor's declaration.

STATE OF COLORADO, HONORARY PROCLAMATION—PUEBLO PACHYDERM DAY APRIL 20, 1999

Whereas, the organization represents a unique concept for political clubs by being patterned after the weekly meeting type luncheon clubs, with programs centered around political and governmental affairs; and

Whereas, the Pueblo Pachyderm Club promotes the development of future political leaders and citizen participation as embodied in their motto, "Free Government Requires Active Citizens," and is open to both male and female members; and

Whereas, the Pachyderm Clubs promote better government through club programs and meetings open to the public, providing scholarships for political science students, sponsoring campaign workshops and encouraging awareness of political affairs;

Now, Therefore, I, Bill Owens, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim April 20, 1999, as Pueblo Pachyderm Day in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this tenth day of March 1999.

BILL OWENS Governor.

#### A FEW OUTSTANDING WOMEN

#### HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before the House of Representatives today and acknowledge the tremendous contributions of the women of the sixth congressional district of Georgia to our state and nation. In particular I want to acknowledge the contributions of women in business.

The growth and economic prosperity of Georgia's economy has been paralleled by the growth of Women-Owned Businesses and Enterprises. Their contributions have provided quality jobs, innovative services, and new products for Georgia.

I am very pleased to inform you that Georgia is now the second fastest growing state in America in terms of women business owners. For just a moment I would like to tell you about a few of these outstanding women.

Carolyn Stradley, the founder and owner of C and S Paving in Marietta, Georgia is a true success story. Orphaned as a child and a school dropout as a teenager, Carolyn founded her business with a shovel and determination. Today she sits on the National Women's Business Council, and is one of Georgia's leading contractors.

Jane Carithers, along with her husband Larry, owns and operates the successful Carithers Florist in Marietta, Georgia. Jane is Georgia's leading florist and an innovator in her field. She initiated the use of flowers and floral arrangements for business promotion, office interiors, and community benefits. Even while reaching the heights of her profession, she still commits time and resources to many community events and programs.

Jackie Ward, founder of Computer Generations, is one of North America's leading developers of computer technology and services to corporate America. Jackie has created jobs for thousands of men and women in Georgia and the United States. While building her business she has also worked to bring business to Georgia by serving as the first woman President in the history of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

So many women in so many ways are growing Georgia's economy. Women in real estate like Pat DiGeorge, Mitzi Jaznicki, Mary Ann Anziano, Gail Hurst, Sandra Eades, Shirley Hardman, and Annie Parker. Women in homebuilding like Kay Cantrell, and in new home marketing like Bea McDowell. Women in commercial planning and design like Bianca Quantrell, and women in economic development like Annie Hunt Burrus.

I could acknowledge so many more for all they have done and contributed to Georgia. I am very pleased that the Congressional Caucus for Women's issues has chosen to acknowledge the contribution of women, and I am pleased to recognize the tremendous contribution of women in business throughout the sixth district of Georgia.